try has shown a growth rate of around 25% during the last two years which is better than that of the other countries.

(c) Under the liberalised industrial policy, manufacture of all types of vehicles has been delicensed and import of technology is being permitted liberally. These measures aim to promote this industry.

Failure of Labour Commissioner to take action against the Patriot Newspaper Management

2418. SMT. CHANDRAKALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour Commissioner, Delhi Government had passed an order on August 5, 1996 prohibiting the continuance of lockout declared by the patriot newspaper management;

(b) whether despite Labour Commissioner's order the lockout has neither been lifted nor the salaries of the workers paid since May, 1996;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and why the prosecution proceedings have not been launched against the management as per the provisions of Section 26 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government including a direction to the Labour Commissioner to prosecute the management and have the lockout lifted?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi issued prohibitory order on 5.8.96 under section 10(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 prohibiting continuance of the lockout declared by the Patriot newspaper management. The operation of the prohibitory orders were stayed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide their order dated 12.9.96. Discussion were held by the Government with both the parties.

Appeal from ISMA for Parity in the Prices of Sugar

2419. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry is close to panic because of Government's offer to permit mills to sell 30% above their June allocation in the free trade market;

(b) if so, the justification and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received an appeal from the Indian Sugar Mills Association to make it realise that it is critical now to maintain some sort of parity between the State Advised price, the Statutory revised price and the secondary market price of sugar; and

(d) if so, action taken by the Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In June, 1996, sugar factories were given an opportunity to sell, if they so desired 30% more sugar over and above their normal free sale quota to enable them to dispose off some of their sugar stocks.

(c) and (d) Inspite of the fact that the Central Government fixes Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories to cane growers, the State Government also announce their own State Advised prices which is payable by the sugar factories located in the respective States to the cane growers supplying them sugarcane. Sometimes the State Advised Prices of cane are very high which create difficulties for the sugar industry in the State.

The views of State Governments, the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories and Indian Sugar Mills Association have been considered by the Government with regard to sugarcane pricing policy. The question was first considered in the meeting of the sugar Ministers of the State Governments held in February,

1994 when it was decided to constitute a Committee of the Sugar Ministers of five major sugar producing States (U.P., Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) under the Chairmanship of the Sugar Minister of Uttar Pradesh. This Committee submitted its report in April, 1995 recommending, *inter alia* constitution of a National Pricing Board for the purpose. The question of setting up of this Board was considered in the Conference of Sugar Ministers of all the sugar producing States held on 6.5.1995. It was decided in that Conference to obtain detailed views of all the sugar producing States before constitution of the proposed Board. All the State Governments were accordingly requested to furnish their views in this regard to this Ministry. Views of the Government of Maharashtra are awaited.

Complaint from twenty first century Medicare Limited, New Delhi against a Japanese Importer

2420. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter dated 19th November, 1996 from an Hon'ble MP forwarding a complaint from Twenty First Century Medicare Ltd., New Delhi against a Japanese Importer of cut and polished Diamonds for indulging in cheating;

(b) whether the complainant has sought CBI investigation into the matter;

(c) whether Government are taking immediate steps to order investigation in cooperation with INTER-POL against the accused Japanese company so as to protect Indian Company's interests as well as our foreign exchange interest; and

(d) if so, the nature of action taken in the matter, with facts in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected from the concerned authorities and will be laid on the table of the House.

Liability of the Manufacturer after Warranty Period

2421. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Manufacturer's liability does not end after warranty period" appearing in the Times of India, dated 18th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Few cases decided by Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora regarding complaints pertaining to defects in vehicles have been cited in the article. The Fora had drawn a distinction between manufacturing defects and problems arising out of negligence on the part of the consumer. Only in the former case the courts awarded relief to the consumer.

(c) The warranty is already covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and consumer can seek redressal under the provisions of section 2(1)(f) for any defect and section 2(1)(g) for deficiency in the product and services.

Data Bank for PF Subscribers

2422. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is creating a data bank of all PF subscribers in the country;

(b) the total number of persons to whom the pensions have been disbursed as on date;